

**Indigenous Sacred Peaks Virtual Leadership Summit**  
**September 21, 2021**  
**Address to Tribal Leaders by Hilary Giovale**

Good morning; my name is Hilary Giovale. I am a ninth generation settler, descended from the ancient Celtic, Germanic, and Nordic peoples of Northwestern Europe. As someone who has lived in Flagstaff for almost 30 years, I have had the privilege of receiving education, enjoying a vibrant community, giving birth to my two children, and raising them at the foot of the beloved mountain we are talking about today. I am married into a family that has been running a multi-generational business in Flagstaff for over 50 years, and we have been blessed by many opportunities here on your ancestral homeland. I have been a member of Indigenous Circle of Flagstaff since 2016.

I am deeply disturbed by the actions of Arizona Snowbowl. This business knowingly operates in violation of your sovereign existence. AZ Snowbowl is intent upon expanding its business model to include even more recreational activities, because the climate crisis is damaging the profitability of skiing. This winter, AZ Snowbowl prioritized profits and put our entire community at risk with its lax covid safety protocols. All of this is happening with total disregard for this sacred being, your human rights, and the unknown environmental impacts that could adversely affect many species for countless generations.

When my ancestors immigrated to this continent in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, some of them came as refugees. In Europe, they had been brutally colonized, forced to speak English, evicted from their ancestral homelands, and harmed by patriarchal religious institutions. Along with their intergenerational trauma, they imported dysfunctional systems of governance and economy. They assimilated into the insatiable greed of whiteness and inflicted the exact same traumas on the Original Peoples of this continent. It has taken many generations

for us settlers to begin recognizing that our ancestors' Eurocentric concepts are not working - in fact, they are harming all of us and the future of all life.

I have come to realize that the only way forward is acknowledge the deep harm that has been done, apologize, and come together in unity to make repairs. I am here for that process. I honor Indigenous existence, sovereignty, worldviews, and governance, and I see Indigenous peoples as keepers of sophisticated wisdom and technologies for the sustainable, long-term survival of all species. I care deeply about our community, my children, and the well-being of the land and water. I hope that all of our great-grandchildren will inherit a planet where they can thrive in peace, equity, and harmony.

From my perspective, corporate exploitation of sacred sites is a root cause of our social discord and environmental crises, and AZ Snowbowl should no longer exist. In my opinion, tribal co-management of this land is a bare minimum. In addition to that, I would support areas of the mountain being designated as Indigenous spaces, for you to re-establish your lifeways and cultural practices that were interrupted by colonization. Your peoples have longstanding relationships with this place, and you should ultimately be the ones to care for this land. For this reason, I humbly ask you to come together with a strong, unified voice to take care of this sacred mountain in the best way possible.

I honor and appreciate the work you are doing here today. Please let me know how I can support you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.